other examinations, in addition to the scheduled rates in force at present and car hire.

2. If private parties are prepared to bring their own cars suited to the requirements of the Specialist and the safety of the articles to be conveyed to and fro, the same will be accepted in lieu of motor car hire.

3. Fifty per cent. of the fees realised from the patients should be credited to Government, the remaining fifty per cent. being given to the X-ray Specialist.

4. The X-ray Specialist may take with him an attendant or a warder to be in charge of the machinery and to help him in fitting up the machine. A fee of Rs. 2 should be paid to the attendant by the Specialist from his remuneration.

Sd.
Chief Secretary to Government.

Huzur Cutcherry,
Trivandrum, 5th August 1931.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*contd.*)

President : The House will proceed to the discussion of the demands for grants.

DEMAND No. XIII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : Sir, I rise to move for the grant of a sum of Rs. 63,500 under Demand XIII—General Administration—Legislative Bodies.

Mr. J. John Kattakayam: ഒരു രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ശ്രേയസ്സ് അവിടത്തെ ഭരണരീതിയേയും പ്രജകളുടെ സാമ്പത്തികോല്ക്കർഷത്തേയും ആശ്രയിച്ചിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. നികുതികൊടുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള വിഷമത്തെപ്പറ്റിയും, ജനങ്ങളുടെ ദുരിതാവസ്ഥയെപ്പറ്റിയും, കടത്തിനു വേണ്ടി വാറണ്ടിൽ പിടിച്ചു കൊണ്ടു പോകുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റിയും മറ്റും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു് കുറെ മുൻപുവരെ ആരും പ്രതിപ്പെട്ടിട്ടില്ല. കുറഞ്ഞൊരു കാലമായി അഹമഹമികയാ ജനപ്രതിനിധികളും പത്രപംക്തികളും വഴിയായും ഹർജികളും ഡെപ്യൂട്ടേഷനും മാർഗ്ഗമായും മറ്റും സങ്കടങ്ങൾ അറിയിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതിന്റെ കാരണം എന്താണ് എന്നു് ഗവണ്മെൻറു് അവധാനപൂർവം ചിന്തിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. കരം കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നോ മറ്റു തരത്തിലുള്ള ദാക്ഷിണ്യങ്ങൾ കാണിയ്ക്കണമെന്നോ ഇതുവരെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ? ഒരിയ്ക്കലുമില്ല. അടിക്കടി ഉണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന വിഷമങ്ങളെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ കണ്ണുപടങ്ങളിൽ കുത്തിച്ചെലുത്തുന്നതിനു തന്നെ സാധിക്കാതെയാണിരിക്കുന്ന

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ത്ത്. ഈ തരത്തിലുള്ള വിഷമഘട്ടങ്ങളിലാണ് ഭരണാധിപന്റെ യോഗ്യത മനസ്സിലാക്കേണ്ടത്. ഒരു ഗൃഹനായകൻ തന്റെ മക്കൾക്കു ഏതവസരത്തിലാണ് വിഷമഘട്ടം വരാൻ പോകുന്നതെന്നു സൂക്ഷിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. സുഭിക്ഷതയുള്ള സമയങ്ങളിൽ മക്കളുടെ കായ്ത്തിൽ ക്രൂരതയായ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടാവശ്യമില്ലാ. എന്നാൽ ആപൽഘട്ടങ്ങളിൽ അതറിഞ്ഞു വേണ്ട പരിഹാരമാർഗ്ഗം ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ് ഒരു യഥാർത്ഥ പിതാവിന്റെ ധർമ്മം. ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഒരു യഥാർത്ഥപിതാവായി സങ്കല്പിക്കാം. ഈ വിഷമഘട്ടത്തിൽ നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു തൽപരിഹാരാർത്ഥം എന്തുചെയ്തു എന്നു നോക്കാം. പല രാജ്യക്കാരും അവരവരുടെ വിഷമങ്ങൾ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിന് പല സംഗതികളും പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആ നിലയിൽ നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഒന്നും തന്നെ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല, എന്നു വേണം പറയുവാൻ. ൨൫% ഭൂനികുതി കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നു കഴിഞ്ഞവർഷത്തിൽ നിശ്ചയം പാസ്സാക്കുകയും അതനുസരിച്ചു ദക്ഷിണതിരുവിതാംകൂർകാക്കു ചില സൌജന്യങ്ങൾ ചെയ്കയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതല്ലാതെ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂർകാരുടെ കാർഷികാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കു വേണ്ടി യാതൊരനുഗ്രഹങ്ങളും ചെയ്തു തന്നിട്ടില്ല. രാജോചിതമായിട്ടുള്ള രമ്യഹർമ്മ്യങ്ങളിൽ അധിവസിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥവൃന്ദം ഈ വിഷമതകളെപ്പറ്റി വല്ലതും ചിന്തിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ? ഒരിക്കലും ഇല്ല. സാധുക്കളും നിരാധാരരുമായ കർഷകജനത ഇപ്പോൾ അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന മാതിരിയുള്ള വിഷമങ്ങൾ നാട്ടിൽഇല്ലെന്നു പറയാൻകൂടി അവർ സന്നദ്ധരാണ്. ആകപ്പാടെ നോക്കിയാൽ ഇവിടെ വെറും യജമാനത്വം മാത്രമാണു നടമാടുന്നതു്. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥവൃന്ദം പൊതുജനദാസർ എന്നുള്ള തത്വം അവർ സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി ഒരിക്കലും കണ്ടിട്ടില്ല. ജനങ്ങളുടെ മേൽ കുതിര കയറി അവരുടെ ജീവരക്തത്തെ ഊറ്റി കുടിക്കാനല്ലാതെ ഇവരുടെ സമയം ജനക്ഷേമകരങ്ങളായ മറ്റു കായ്ങ്ങളിലേക്കു ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തിവരുന്നില്ല.

President: Order, Order. From the little that I have been able to understand from the member's oration or peroration, I think he is harping upon the tune of the reduction of taxes. If I have heard and understood the honourable member aright, that is a matter which is not at all germane to the grant under discussion. It ought to have been brought under General Administration which was discussed yesterday and which has already been passed by the House.

Mr. J. John Kattakayam: ഞാൻ അതിനെക്കുറിച്ചു വരികയാണു്.

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President: Any other matter, please ?

Mr. J. John Kattakayam: ഈ രാജ്യത്തു് ജനങ്ങളെ അന്ന ഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നതിനായി രണ്ടു പ്രതിനിധിസ്ഥാപനങ്ങളും ഞങ്ങളുടെ അന്ന ദാതാവും കാണപ്പെട്ട ദൈവവുമായ മഹാരാജാവ് തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു് കല്പിച്ചനുവദിച്ച തന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നിയമസമിതികളുകൊണ്ടു ജനസാമാന്യത്തിന് പറയത്തക്ക ഗുണക്ലേശങ്ങളും നടക്കുന്നതിനു പയ്യാപ്തമല്ലെന്നു പറയാതിരിപ്പാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. പൊതുജനദാസന്മാരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥവൃന്ദം പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ മേൽ കുതിര കയറുന്നു. പൊതുജനപ്രതിനിധികളുടെമേലും കുതിര കയറുന്നില്ലയോ എന്നു ഞാൻസംശയിക്കുന്നു. ഉത്തരവാദിതപ്രഭരണം ഇല്ലാതിരിക്കുന്ന കാലത്തോളം പ്രജകളുടെ പ്രതിനിധി എന്ന നിലയിൽ വേഷം കെട്ടി വന്നിരിക്കുന്ന ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ഈ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളും വഴി യാതൊന്നും പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിനു സാധിക്കുകയില്ലാ എന്നു് നിശ്ചയമാണു്. അതായതു ഉത്തരവാദിതപ്രമില്ലാത്ത ഈ സഭകൊണ്ടു യാതൊരു ഗുണവും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വരാനില്ല. രാജ്യഭാരധുരന്ധരനും വിശാലാശയനും ഇൻഡ്യയിലെങ്ങും പ്രാമാണ്യം സിദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അത്ഭുതമായ ഒരു മഹാൻ ഈ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ നേതാവായിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഞങ്ങളുടെ പ്രാർത്ഥനയെ സശ്രദ്ധം ഗ്രഹിച്ചു അചിരേണ ഞങ്ങളുടെ ആഗ്രഹം നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തിത്തരുന്നതിനു അവിടത്തേയ്ക്കു കഴിയുമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. ഇതിനേക്കാൾ വിഷമകരങ്ങളും ദുർഘടങ്ങളുമായ അനേകം സംഗതികൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു പ്രയോജകമാവിധത്തിൽ ഇൻഡ്യയിലും പുറമേയും അങ്ങു പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി ഞങ്ങൾ അറിയുന്നു. അതിനാൽ അങ്ങയുടെ ഭരണാരംഭകാലത്തു തന്നെ ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ഉത്തരവാദിതപ്രഭരണം സ്ഥാപിച്ചു കിട്ടുന്നതിനുള്ള സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി അവധാനപൂർവം ചിന്തിച്ചു മാതൃകായോഗ്യമായ ഒരു നിയമസമിതി സ്ഥാപിച്ചു തരണമെന്നപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു എന്റെ പ്രസംഗം അവസാനിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : Sir, I rise to oppose this demand. For my part, I feel there is very little benefit to the public at large in spending such large sums of money every year on these Legislative Bodies. In spite of our claim for high percentage of literacy and our long experience for well nigh half a century in the working of representative institutions, it is indeed rather lamentable to note that even to-day we have not developed any true democratic instinct, nor could we rightly boast of a genuine democratic institution in the strict sense of the term. The reason for this is not far to seek. I do not think there is any other

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country in the world where so much of communal rivalry and bitterness exist as we have here ; and under such an uncongenial atmosphere how could a really democratic institution take root and thrive. The elections to our so called representative institutions are run purely on communal lines ; and very often what we find is that rank communalists are returned to the Councils just to urge communal claims. Not infrequently do we see our Government also stooping low and fanning unhealthy communal feelings. Under these conditions one could not help exclaiming "Oh Lord ! Save us from such democracy."

Sir, you may laugh at me for having called a halt to democracy in this 20th century. Democracy, no doubt, may be good in itself but its success to a very large extent depends upon the people who work it. So long as the people of this country are not prepared to rise above communalism, neither universal adult franchise, nor reservation of seats, nor any other known devices of modern times, could improve the real situation in this State. It is highly regretable to note that in several cases the members are returned on communal tickets and that many of them, after entering the Councils, instead of trying to discharge their responsibilities in furtherance of the common—weal pardon me, Sir, for using the expression—disgracefully prostitute their position as members, to gain their selfish ends in the names of their respective communities.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi (*Mavelikara and Karthikapalli* cum *Kunnathur*) : I rise to a point of order. Is it open to the member to speak so derisively of the members of this House ?

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : I have not mentioned any name and I do not understand why the honourable member alone feels very nervous, and I started with an apology for using such strong language.

President : Still, your statement was against the House as a whole including yourself ; and the word 'disgraceful' is unparliamentary.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : Sir, if it is not parliamentary I withdraw it. I did not get a better word and so I used it.

So, in the interest of the general public one is tempted to appeal to the powers that be, to save the State and its people from this recurring expenditure consequent upon the conduct of a few shows like this. Such a step, I feel sure, would be welcomed by our officials as well, for they will then be considerably protected from the frequent invasions on their time by the so called representatives assembling at the capital during the various sessions of

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[Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai]

the Council and the Assembly. I may also state, Sir, without the least hesitation, that our Government also do not seem to maintain these institutions except as mere shows. The non-official members are always placed at a disadvantage. The number of days allotted for non-official business is too inadequate that we find it impossible to discharge our duties efficiently and satisfactorily. The number of days set apart during the year 1109 for transacting non-official business, both in this House and in the Assembly together, was only six and inevitably a large portion of the non-official business lapsed for want of time. The percentage of interpellations answered by Government is also very poor. Even in the matter of answering interpellations we have always noticed a lack of fairness, frankness, and readiness on the part of the official members to impart full and adequate information sought for by the non-officials. Whenever any question is felt to be inconvenient by the official members no answer is given to it at all, although the same is renewed for every session. In the case of supplementary questions of a like nature the official members have no scruples to seek the protection of the chair by the process of claiming 'Notice'. All these, I am constrained to remark, indicate with what amount of distrust and suspicion the officials deal with the non-official members. If these representative institutions are to be of any use to the Government or to the governed, one would reasonably expect that the representatives of the people are taken more into the confidence of the Government so far as the policy and details of administration are concerned.

You have stated, Sir, in the course of the address made by you in the Assembly.....

President : We do not generally name the Houses ; we say "in other places,.....'

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : You have stated, Sir, in the course of the address made by you in the Assembly at its last session, that the practice of publishing interpellations and resolutions in the newspapers before they are admitted is objectionable and improper. In the first place, I may say, there is no such prohibition either in the Regulation or the Rules and Standing Orders. I am sure you would not have ventured, Sir, to make that remark if you had only known the real state of affairs obtaining in this land. At present we are not informed whether our questions and resolutions have been admitted or not. For instance, as regards questions sent up by me months and months ago and even renewed by me at every subsequent session, I have yet to learn,

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whether they have been admitted or not. The information that is sometimes given to us with regard to any questions disallowed by Government is very unsatisfactory.

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai (*Additional Head Sirakr Vakil*) : Is it by *Government* that questions are disallowed and members are informed of questions being disallowed ?

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : It is done by the President and by Government. I simply meant the President.

A question may sometimes contain several parts. One day we get information that a particular portion of a question has been disallowed , and several days hence there may come another letter informing us that some other portions have also been disallowed. How long are we to wait to know what has happened to our questions and resolutions ?

We are also experiencing another serious handicap arising out of the present system of answering questions. Now the starred questions alone are answered in the Council, and answers to some of the unstarred questions find a place only in the printed proceedings of the Council which are not supplied to us sufficiently early. Consequently we are not able to know in time which of the questions will have to be renewed for the next session.

In the circumstances, one is naturally tempted to ask why we should have these legislative bodies unless Government are prepared to take these bodies into their confidence. From what I have already stated, neither from the point of view of the people nor from that of Government, can it be said that these representative institutions are of any practical utility so as to justify this expenditure now demanded under this head ?

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : Sir, I rise to support the Demand. In doing so, I enter my strong protest against the unparliamentary way in which Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai referred...

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : With the ruling of the Chair, I have withdrawn the expression which the President ruled as unparliamentary. Therefore, is my friend in order in again referring to that ?

President : Let us wait and see whether he is going to enter any protest against any other observation of yours. No doubt what is passed is buried and cannot be referred to again.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : In regard to the work of the Legislature, from my own experience in this House and from a perusal of the reports of the proceedings of the Legislature, I have come to the conclusion—and I think I am right—

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[Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi.]

that democratic institutions have done great service to this country. I also believe that honourable members of the Legislature in Travancore are not obsessed with any communal bias nor are they being returned on the communal ticket. It is true that, occasionally, communal problems crop up for our solution ; and I have only to congratulate the honourable members for not evincing any heat or undue bias in discussing such problems. Sir, it is many years since I left my college debating society, and I do not want to parade arguments for or against democracy. My acquaintance with Government and Governmental institutions had made me a believer in the philosophy of half-a-loaf. It is only in that spirit that I am supporting the Demand now before the House. I am at one with my friend Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai in thinking that our democratic institutions leave much to be desired, and that our powers ought to be increased. Only I am afraid that it is not within our purview to speak about the enlargement of our powers. I would appeal to Government to make the necessary recommendations for the enlargement of the powers of the Legislature. At the same time I want to protest against the way in which Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai referred to the staff of the Legislature. I am glad to testify to the excellent courtesy and uniform kindness which we have always received from the staff of the Legislature. Sir, that leads me to one small invidious distinction now made by Government between the Secretary of the Sri Mulam Assembly and the Secretary of the Sri Chitra State Council. The State Council, being the Upper House, its Secretary, I must say, is entitled to the same status and emoluments, if not higher status and emoluments, than the Secretary of the Lower House. The present position reflects badly on the dignity of the Upper House.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : Is it a recommendation that the honourable member is making ?

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : Yes, I do not disguise it.

With these observations, I support the Demand.

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : I do not think I need make a long speech on this motion. I find that there is a paucity of honourable members on the other side to speak on the motion. Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai who opposed the Demand has been opposed by Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi. I really do not know what Mr. Kattakayam wanted. I understand Malayalam and yet I was not able to make out the gist of what he said. At first he dilated on the necessity for remission of tax and concluded with a peroration

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making an appeal to Government. I think he thanked the Government for the Legistative reforms that have been introduced.

Mr. M. Govindan (*Nominated*): Did not Mr. Kattakayam say that he wants responsible Government?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Yes, Sir. I am sorry I forgot that point.

Mr. J. John Kattakayam: ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം വേണമെന്ന ഞാൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടതായിട്ട് ഓർമ്മിക്കുന്നില്ലേ?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Yes, Sir. He has asked for the introduction of responsible Government but I am sorry it is not within the power of the Government to grant it nor is it within the power of this House to demand it.

Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai began his speech by saying that he did not believe in legislative bodies. In one breath he recommended the abolition of both the Houses and in the next he complained about the inadequacy of the number of days allotted for non-official business. Probably he meant, Sir, that if more non-official days could be allotted he would prefer to retain the present legislative bodies.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: A world of personal explanation, Sir. It is not within my power to keep these Houses going or not. So long as the present system continues it has to be mended or improved.

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Sir, he would prefer the abolition. But if they are to be retained, he says that he wants more time to be allotted for non-official business.

Regarding the allotment of more time for non-official business, I have to point out that before the reformed legislative bodies came into existence, there was only one House and there used to be four meetings in the year. Besides the Legislative Council, there was also the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly which met only once a year. But now we have two legislative bodies and during the last two years, Government were able to arrange for only three meetings in a year. But even these three meetings take considerably more time than the old Council and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly together took. During each meeting a certain number of days are allotted for non-official business. Government business also must be got through. The honourable members must remember that the Government machinery must also work. Government certainly respect the wishes of the Houses and do all they can to carry out those wishes. But the functions of the Government do not stop with holding meetings of the Council and Assembly. Officers have to attend to other duties also.

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Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know from the member whether Government will be prepared to consider the extension of the days allotted for non-official business by one day?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Government are prepared to consider the question. I am only pointing out the practical difficulties. If we go on extending the days for non-official business at each meeting of both the Houses we may find it difficult to carry on the normal work of Government. However, in these days when there is a clamour for democratic institutions we have to put up with a certain amount of difficulty and inconvenience. Government will certainly consider whether it will be possible to increase the number of days for non-official business in this House.

About the method of answering interpellations which Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai raised, I have to say that the number of interpellations which Government receive for a meeting is so large that it is really not possible to collect the necessary information and answer them all at that meeting.

Mr. M. N Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know from the member why the questions that were sent up by me twelve months ago have not yet been answered? Is it that the Government have not yet received answers from the various departments?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Sir, I cannot answer that question off-hand at present. If the member will refer me to some specific questions, I will look into the matter and say why it is that such questions have not been answered. I may also mention that if a question has not been answered at a meeting it has to be repeated at the next meeting. If the honourable member will inform me of the questions which, in spite of being repeated, have not been answered, I shall look into the matter. But in answering questions the difficulty is this. Government have to get information from the Heads of Departments and they in their turn have to get it from their subordinates. So it takes some time to prepare the answer to every question that is sent up to Government. It is also seen that the questions are sometimes very vague. Information is asked for without specifying the period for which it is required. I may refer, for instance, to a question put by Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai which I answered yesterday.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: That is because the Government split up the question that I sent up.

President: The Government have no authority to do it. It is the President that does it.

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Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: The questions are sometimes so vague that it is not possible to answer them correctly.

Regarding the splitting up of questions, as the Chair has pointed out, it is the President and not the Government that does it. The question that is put does not sometimes relate to one specific matter. It may include several matters jumbled together and in such cases the President has no alternative but to split such questions into two or even three parts. It is due to this defect in the questions that some of them at any rate have been split up.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know from the member what objection he has to putting more questions in the agenda? We have got one hour for questions but as a matter of fact we find that the time taken for questions does not exceed fifteen minutes.

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: More questions are not included because it has not been possible to prepare the necessary answers. Six days have been allotted for the Council and I think that by the last day we will have answered almost all the questions for which answers have been received from the Heads of Departments and subordinate officers. The honourable member is mistaken if he thinks that Government shelve inconvenient questions and select for answering only those questions which, they think, could be safely answered. There is no such thing. There is no motive in Government's selection of questions for answering. If the Honourable members ask questions Government are prepared to answer them. The only thing is that there must be a chance to collect the necessary information.

Mr. M. Govindan: May I know from the member whether in the near future we will have a more convenient Hall for our sittings?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: The honourable member is aware that the foundation stone for a new Council Chamber has been laid and that plans have been prepared for the same.

Mr. M. N Paramesvaran Pillai: Is it a fact that it has become the abode of snakes?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: I do not think so, Sir. It is within the premises of the Public Offices and the people who go to the offices will take care to see that the premises do not become infested with snakes. Government are as anxious as the honourable members to see that the Council Chamber for which the foundation stone was laid by His Excellency the Viceroy of India is finished soon.

Mr. K. K. Thomas (*Nominated*): Has any amount been provided in the budget for the Council Chamber?

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Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : No, because the plans and estimates are not ready yet. A proper plan must be prepared first and then an estimate must be prepared and sanctioned before provision is made in the budget. There is no necessity now to provide any amount in the budget. There is no use including an allotment in the budget and not utilising it for the purpose.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : Are we to understand that the foundation stone has been laid without a plan?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : There was a single plan, but it requires some alterations in details. An estimate has not been prepared. Before the estimate is prepared and sanctioned there is absolutely no use in providing funds in the budget. I can assure the honourable members that the Government will do all that is possible to expedite the preparation of the plans and estimates and if that is done Government will not hesitate to come to the House even for a supplementary grant in the course of the next year so that the work may be started as early as possible.

Regarding the disallowing of questions, which Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai referred to, I think, it is a rule that only, in the case of those questions which have not been admitted, the fact that they have not been admitted, should be communicated to the members.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : Are we to presume that in the case of questions about which we have not received any notice that they have been disallowed, they are all admitted?

Rao Sahib Dr N. Kunjan Pillai : Certainly. If any question has been disallowed that fact will be communicated to the member. If he has not been informed that his question has not been disallowed, I think he may take it that his question has been admitted.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : What will be the maximum time required by the President to communicate the information that a question is admitted or not?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : At present it is not the practice to communicate to the member that a question has been admitted. Only in case it is not admitted the fact will be communicated to him. But if the honourable member thinks that the Government should communicate to the members the admission of questions also, Government will consider that point. As far as I know, it has not been the practice hitherto to intimate the admission of questions to members.

As regards unstarred questions, I think I need not say anything because there is the ruling by the Chair as to what questions are unstarred and how they should be answered.

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Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : With regard to the unstarred questions we are not able to know in time what the answers are. Sometimes the printed proceedings are given to us only two or three days before the next session. Hence we are not in a position to send up further questions in time.

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : The honourable member evidently wants that even in the case of those unstarred questions which have been answered in a particular session, copies of the answers should be supplied to him.

President : I think I might supplement the information. Answers to unstarred questions for the day are placed in the library of the Legislative House and if honourable members do not care to go and read these, it is not the fault of the department.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : I do not think it will be a loss to the Government if a few copies are printed and distributed to the members.

President : That is all right ; but the honourable member's remark that he is not made aware of the answers to unstarred questions until the proceedings are printed and supplied is not accurate.

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : About the asking of supplementary questions, the Chair has several times drawn the attention of the House to the procedure to be followed. The rule, I believe, is that supplementary questions should only be asked to elicit further information on the main question put. But very often, Sir, the honourable members wander away from the main question and introduce into the supplementary questions various matters about which the official members have not got the information at hand. Under such circumstances it is only reasonable that the official members claim notice. For example, if a question is asked about the transfer of a particular officer and if, on the basis of the answer to that question, questions are put about the transfer of various other officers in the same department, it is difficult, Sir, for the official member to answer them. The official members keep before them the files relating to the questions asked and try to answer the supplementary questions put in connection with the main questions. Government will see that, as far as possible, the official members take care to equip themselves with all possible information on the main questions. Sir, I do not think that there is any other point raised by Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai which requires to be dealt with now, and as nobody else has brought up any fresh point during the discussion of this motion I take it that the House will grant the Demand.

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Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: Sir, I wish to add a few words on the points raised by Mr. M N. Paramesvaran Pillai. On the point that all questions given notice of are not answered I wish to bring to the notice of the House.....

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know whether it is a point of order?

President: He was going to say something. It is not a point of order.

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: With regard to the complaint made by Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai that all the questions.....

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: Sir, I rise to a point of order. When the President asked the Law Member whether he had to say anything he said he had nothing to say. Now after the official member has answered, can he be allowed to speak?

President: The Chair must be a bit indulgent.

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: With regard to the point raised by Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai that all the questions are not answered and that some are allowed to lapse, I think that it is but right that I should bring to the notice of the House the real reasons for the same. Sometimes, as Dr. Kunjan Pillai has pointed out, the information actually required is not available with the Government. Take for instance, a question regarding the condition of a road at Perumbavur or another about matters connected with flood damages in Neyyattinkara. Government have to collect the information from the local officers concerned if the information required is really to be supplied to the House. But of course Government can make a formal reply, if that is all that is needed, that the matter has been referred to the Division Peishkar, Quilon, or the Land Revenue Commissioner and so on. That will be an answer technically, to the question. But that is not supplying the information; we always try to get at all the information possible and then answer the question by supplying the information to the House. Inevitably there may be some delay in this procedure. It may be said that in the sister Legislatures of, say, Madras and Delhi, all or practically all the questions are answered. But a careful perusal of the answers will disclose that the information sought is not always supplied. The member in charge may say that the matter has been referred to the Collector or some such other officer. That *is* an answer. But the interpellating member does not get the *information* that he wanted. Here the practice has been not to give such answers. We try to supply the information as much as possible. When information is required on any

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matter we do not come to the House and answer that we have referred the matter to such and such an officer. We wait until the information is received and then tell the House "here is the information". If the House wants merely an answer we can supply it by saying that the matter is referred to a particular officer. We have not been following that system here.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: Have the Government given instructions to the various officers to send up the answers to questions sufficiently early?

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: Yes, we fix a particular time before which to send up the answers.

We try to get all the available information and then give the answer in the House. *All* the questions which are sent up by members *can* be answered by saying that this matter is referred to the Land Revenue Commissioner and that matter to the Chief Engineer and so on. If it is such an answer that is required by members then it can easily be supplied. But our attempt has been to supply the real information. I wish the House would realise that the real reason why some questions are not brought up for answering is that Government have not got the requisite information in their hands.

Then, a word with regard to the complaint raised by Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai that members do not get information about the admission of questions, they being informed only when questions are disallowed. I would appeal to you, Sir, to consider that matter. When a question is *disallowed* the member concerned gets the information. But as there is no fixed time within which a disallowance should be made or communicated a member cannot know definitely whether a question is admitted or not. It was not necessary in the old Council to inform members of the admission of questions, because under the procedure followed then, as soon as questions are admitted they are printed and circulated among the members, so that they acutally knew which were the questions that were admitted. But under the Reformed Legislature, the admitted questions are not printed and circulated. So I would request you to look into the matter and see whether there is any real inconvenience and whether anything could be done to rectify the complaint made. It is not a matter in which the *Government* have to do anything. It is purly a matter left to you, Sir, as the President of this Council. So I request you, Sir, to look into the matter and, if I may say so, I would add my recommendation also, that this complaint should be sympathetically considered.

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[Mr. Kayalam Parameśvaran Pillai.]

Then in regard to the allotment of days for non-official business, there again, Sir, it is *the Dewan* that has the power to allot and not the *Government*.

Mr. M. N. Parameśvaran Pillai: Sir, a word of personal explanation. When I said 'Government' I meant the 'Dewan.'

Mr. Kayalam Parameśvaran Pillai: The Governor in the Madras Council and the Governor General in the Indian Legislative Assembly make the allotment, as Governor or Governor General and not as Government. In Travancore, the Dewan takes the place of Governor or Governor-General and he exercises this function as Dewan because that function has been conferred on him under the constitution and he as Dewan has the statutory power to allot days for the non-official business. The Dewan is, no doubt, also the head of the administration and in that sense he is part of Government. So, technically no charge can be laid at the doors of Government in this matter. I do not mean to say that Government are quite unconcerned in the matter or that the Dewan does not exercise his discretion properly. I only want to point out the distinction and I want the House to understand that, so far as the floor of this House is concerned, Government have nothing to do with it. But I am sure that the Dewan will bear this complaint in mind, and I have no doubt that what has been said today by Mr. Parameśvaran Pillai will be taken as an appeal to the Dewan.

President: I put Demand XIII—General Administration—Legislative Bodies for Rs. 63,500.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XIV—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—ACCOUNT OFFICE.

Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 1,64,216 under Demand XIV—General Administration—Account Office.

(At this stage the President left the Hall and Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi, one of the Panel of the Chairmen, took the Chair.)

Mr. J. John Kattakayam: സ്റ്റേറ്റ് എയിഡഡ് ബാങ്കിനല പണം വിവിധവിഷയങ്ങളിലായി ചൂഷണംചെയ്യുവരുന്ന എന്നു പരക്കെ ഒരു വർത്തമാനം കേൾക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈ സംഗതി അങ്ങാടിയിൽ പാട്ടെന്നപോലെ അറിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. പല കടങ്ങളും ഇപ്പോൾ കിട്ടാക്കടമായി തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടെ ഉള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പോരാ

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